

CLAIMS

1. A database system comprising:
 - a database;
 - one or more application tools, each of the tools being configured to access data objects from the database;
 - a data buffer configured to store a copy of the data objects accessed from the database; and
 - a delta buffer configured to store a delta record, wherein the delta record represents a change made by the one or more application tools to the data objects accessed from the database.
2. A database system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the delta buffer is configured to generate a cumulative delta record.
3. A database system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the database is a multidimensional database.
4. A database system in accordance with claim 1, wherein one of the one or more application tools is an online analytical processing (OLAP) tool.
5. A database system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the delta buffer includes at least one delta record and each delta record has a corresponding request identifier, and wherein the request identifier is usable by a data object to represent the one or more delta records that have been used to update a data object.
6. A database system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the delta buffer includes at least one delta record and the database system is configured to store the at least one delta record with data in the database.
7. A database system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the data buffer and the delta buffer are parts of a system memory of a computer system.

8. A database system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the delta buffer is configured to compress two or more delta records to generate a cumulative delta record.
9. A method comprising:
 - reading data from a database;
 - storing a data object in a data buffer, wherein the data object includes the data read from the database;
 - accessing the data object from the data buffer with an application tool;
 - storing, in a delta buffer, a delta record representing a change to the data object made by the application tool; and
 - updating the data object in the data buffer with the delta record.
10. A method in accordance with claim 9, further comprising:
 - compressing the delta buffer, wherein compressing the delta buffer includes generating a cumulative delta record.
11. A method in accordance with claim 9, further comprising:
 - storing the delta buffer in the database, wherein storing the delta buffer in the database includes integrating the one or more delta records in the delta buffer with the corresponding data in the database.
12. A method in accordance with claim 9, wherein the database is a multidimensional database.
13. A method in accordance with claim 9, further comprising:
 - associating the delta record with a request identifier, wherein the request identifier is usable by a data object to represent the one or more delta records that have been used to update a data object.

14. An integrated business planning and reporting platform, comprising:
 - a database storing data;
 - a data buffer configured to store one or more data objects, wherein the at least one data object includes data read from the database;
 - a reporting tool for reporting operations based on one or more data objects accessed from the data buffer;
 - a planning tool, integrated with the reporting tool, for planning operations based on the one or more data objects accessed from the data buffer; and
 - a delta buffer configured to store a delta record representing a change made to the one or more data objects by the reporting tool and/or planning tool.
15. A platform in accordance with claim 14, further comprising:
 - a server program configured to manage the data buffer.
16. A platform in accordance with claim 14, further comprising:
 - a server program configured to manage the delta buffer.
17. A platform in accordance with claim 14, wherein the reporting tool and/or planning tool generates the delta record.
18. A platform in accordance with claim 14, wherein the delta buffer stores at least one delta record and each delta record corresponds to a request identifier, wherein the request identifier represents at least one delta record that has been used to update a data object.
19. A platform in accordance with claim 14, wherein the delta buffer is configured to compress two or more delta records to generate a cumulative delta record.
20. A platform in accordance with claim 14, wherein the delta buffer includes at least one delta record and the database system is configured to store the at least one delta record in the database, wherein storing the at least one delta record includes integrating the at least one delta record with data in the database.